

Residential Treatment Facilities

Residential Treatment Facilities (RTF) grants are allocated to qualified school systems to provide education to eligible students. An eligible student is defined as:

- All students who are “in the physical or legal custody” of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Department of Human Services (DHS), or the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)
- Students in a placement operated by DHS
- Students in a facility or placement paid for by DJJ, DHS or any of its divisions, or DBHDD.

These grants are intended to recognize the additional educational costs for students served in RTFs and a portion of the operations costs. To receive grant funds RTFs must apply to the Georgia Department of Education to become eligible to provide education services through the school system in which they are located. Currently, 17 RTF schools and three RTF programs located in 16 school systems are eligible to receive these funds.

Code Section

OCGA § 20-2-133. Residential Treatment Facilities

Methodology

- RTFs submit counts for full time enrollment, average daily attendance, contract days, and additional days of instruction.
- Fund the Equalized cost by calculating the difference between each FTE’s QBE cost per FTE and the Special Education Category III per FTE cost and the per FTE cost for 20 days of additional instruction.
- Adjust the funding based on the average daily attendance each RTF reported.
- Multiply the average daily attendance by the number of additional days of instruction and the daily Equalized cost per FTE.
- Provide additional funding for counselors and paraprofessionals by multiplying the average daily attendance by the number of school days and the cost per school day.
- Provide funding for maintenance and operations based on the number of average daily attendance days and contract school days reported by each RTF.
- These amounts are totaled to provide a grant allocation to each RTF.

FY 2016 Appropriation

\$5,222,590

Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program

The Georgia Special Needs Scholarship (GSNS) Program is available to special needs students attending a Georgia public school who are served under an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Eligible special needs students that transfer to an authorized participating private school receive an award amount equivalent to their Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula earnings to subsidize the costs of attending the private school. A student may continue to participate in the GSNS Program as long as the student remains a resident of Georgia and has continual enrollment and attendance in a private school participating in the GSNS Program. Funds received can only be used to offset tuition and fees at a private school authorized by the State Board of Education to participate in the program. Funds cannot be used to offset the costs of out of district tuition, charter schools, or other options available under public school choice. Scholarship awards for students continuing in the GSNS Program are calculated using the data from the last year a student was enrolled in a Georgia public school.

Code Section

OCGA § 20-2-2110 – 2118 Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program

Methodology

- Multiply the FTE segments of program participants by the QBE funding formula weights.
- Total the segment amounts to provide an award amount for each eligible student.
- Apply the current austerity rate to each student's award amount.
- The Georgia Department of Education sends payments out to private schools for eligible students four times during a school year.

FY 2016 Appropriation

\$21,449,292

Charter System Grant

A Georgia school district has the option to operate under the terms of a charter contract between the State Board of Education and the local Board of Education to receive flexibility waivers from certain state laws and state board rules and guidelines in exchange for greater accountability for student performance. Each charter system must implement school level governance bodies and grant decision-making authority to these teams. There are currently 31 charter systems in Georgia. Charter systems receive a supplement in addition to Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula earnings which must be used in accordance with recommendations of the school level governing body or to advance student achievement goals and school level governance training objectives.

Code Section

OCGA § 20-2-165.1. Charter system earning for each full-time equivalent student; use of funds

Methodology

- Multiply each charter system's FTE segments by 3.785% of the base QBE per FTE funding amount (Grades 9-12).
- Cap each charter system's earnings at \$4.5 million.
- Apply the current austerity percentage to each charter system's earnings.

FY 2016 Appropriation

\$14,891,514

State Charter School Supplement

State charter schools are a public school of choice that operate under the terms of a contract between the governing board of the charter school and the authorizer such as the State Charter Schools Commission and the State Board of Education. State charter schools receive flexibility waivers from certain state laws and state and local board rules and guidelines in exchange for greater accountability for student performance. In addition to QBE formula earnings, state charter schools receive a supplement to partially offset the absence of local tax revenue flowing to state charter schools. There are 21 state charter schools.

Code Section

OCGA § 20-2-2068.1. Charter school funding

Methodology

- Calculate the proportional share of the Transportation grants to local school systems by dividing the prior fiscal year's appropriation for transportation by the total number of FTEs (excluding state charter schools' FTEs) in the prior fiscal year to generate a per FTE cost. For state charter schools with a qualifying transportation program, multiply the number of FTEs in the state charter school by the calculated per FTE cost to generate a Transportation award amount.
- Calculate the proportional share of the Nutrition grants to local school systems by dividing the prior fiscal year's appropriation for nutrition by the total number of FTEs (excluding state charter schools' FTEs) in the prior fiscal year to generate a per FTE cost. For state charter schools with a qualifying nutrition program, multiply the number of FTEs in the state charter school by the calculated per FTE cost to generate a Nutrition award amount.
- Calculate the average amount of total revenues less federal revenues less state revenues other than equalization grants per FTE for the lowest five school systems ranked by assessed valuation per weighted FTE count from the prior fiscal year to provide a grant to all state charter schools.
- Calculate the state-wide average total capital revenue per FTE for local school systems from the prior fiscal year to generate a Capital grant for all brick and mortar state charter schools. Virtual state charter schools do not qualify for the Capital grant.
- Total the four grants to generate an award amount for each state charter schools.

FY 2016 Appropriation

\$65,844,793

Virtual State Charter Schools

There are currently three virtual state charter schools. Funding for virtual state charter schools is similar to brick and mortar state charter with a few exceptions. Virtual state charter schools receive QBE formula earnings and receive the same austerity reduction as local school systems and other state charter schools. Virtual state charter schools are not eligible for the Transportation grant, Nutrition Grant, or Capital Grant, which are components of the State Charter Schools Supplement. In addition, the supplement for virtual state charter schools is reduced by one-third as prescribed by state law. Finally, because the supplement for virtual state charter schools is reduced by one-third, the calculated local five mill share amount is also reduced by one-third.

Code Section

OCGA § 20-2-2068.1. Charter school funding

Methodology

- State Charter School Supplement: Calculate the average amount of total revenues less federal revenues less state revenues other than equalization grants per FTE for the lowest five school systems ranked by assessed valuation per weighted FTE count from the prior fiscal year to provide a grant to all state charter schools. Reduce the amount by one-third.
- Local Five Mill Share: Calculate the per FTE Local Five Mill Share amount for state charter schools by averaging the Local Five Mill Share per FTE amount for the lowest five school systems ranked by assessed valuation per weighted FTE count. Multiply each state charter school's number of FTEs by the calculated Local Five Mill Share per FTE amount. Reduce the calculated Local Five Mill Share amount for virtual state charter schools by one-third.

FY 2016 Appropriation

\$36,790,130- State Charter School Supplement (virtual state charter schools only)

Preschool Handicapped

The Preschool Handicapped grant provides funding for teachers, transportation, and operations to provide early education services to three- and four-year-old students with disabilities to better prepare them to succeed upon entering school. School systems receive these funds if they have eligible students within the system.

Code Section

N/A

Methodology

- Take the teacher base salary with fringes and divide by the funding class size (five for Special Education Category III and three for Special Education Category IV) to get a per student cost.
- Take the per student cost for Special Education Categories III and IV and divide by six to generate a per segment cost.
- Special Education Category III three- and four-year-olds receive funding for two segments and Category IV three- and four-year-olds receive funding for three segments.
- Teacher salaries are funded at 75% for Special Education Category III students and 25% for Special Education Category IV students.
- Multiply the number of three- and four-year-old students with disabilities within a school system by the calculated per student cost for teacher salaries using the ratios above.
- Calculate training and experience and health insurance for each eligible teacher.
- Provide a grant for transportation and to school systems with eligible students.
- Total the amounts for teacher salaries with fringes and health insurance, transportation, and operations for each school system.
- Apply the current austerity rate to the grant award amount.

FY 2016 Appropriation

\$31,446,339